

CLAIMS

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1. A system comprising:
  - a directory of a plurality of services;
  - an engine for receiving requests to access said services;
  - 5 a plurality of drivers for interfacing with said plurality of services and with said engine;
  - a plurality of service providers accessible to said plurality of drivers for providing services identified in said directory.
- 10 2. The system of claim 1 wherein said directory includes metadata for each of said plurality of services in said directory.
3. The system of claim 2 wherein said metadata defines a schema of a service's input and output interfaces.
4. The system of claim 3 wherein said metadata further includes configuration parameters for configuring a driver associated with said service.
- 15 5. The system of claim 1 wherein said services are accessible via an API.
6. The system of claim 1 wherein said services are XML based services.

7. The system of claim 1 wherein a service provider comprises an entity that is capable of receiving some information and providing a response.

8. The system of claim 1 wherein said engine interprets said  
5 requests and determines what services are needed, directs requests to the appropriate services via said service drivers, and builds responses into replies.

9. The system of claim 1 wherein said requests comprises HTTP requests.

10. The system of claim 1 wherein access to said system is  
10 accomplished via a web browser.

11. A method for accessing services comprising:  
  
storing identifiers of a plurality of services in a directory;  
  
providing requests to an engine to access said plurality of services;  
  
interfacing with said plurality of services and with said engine via a  
15 plurality of drivers based on said requests.

12. The method of claim 11 wherein said directory includes metadata for each of said plurality of services in said directory.

13. The method of claim 12 wherein said metadata defines a schema of a service's input and output interfaces.

14. The method of claim 13 wherein said metadata further includes configuration parameters for configuring a driver associated with said service.

15. The method of claim 11 wherein said services are accessible via an API.

5 16. The method of claim 11 wherein said services are XML based services.

17. The method of claim 11 wherein a service provider comprises an entity that is capable of receiving some information and providing a response.

10 18. The method of claim 11 wherein said engine interprets said requests and determines what services are needed, directs requests to the appropriate services via said service drivers, and builds responses into replies.

19. The method of claim 11 wherein said requests comprises HTTP requests.

15 20. The method of claim 11 wherein access to said engine is accomplished via a web browser.

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